Talks with ULFA

1364. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ULFA has agreed to unconditional talks with the Government of India; and

(b) if so, have they also agreed to a cease-fire during the course of such talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Government has received an appeal from Prof. Indira Goswami for "Peace Talks" with United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). The appeal indicated the willingness of ULFA to hold talks with the Government of India without pre-conditions, and also specifically referred to their 'core demand' of sovereignty. In reply to the appeal it was reiterated that the Government of India had consistently expressed its willingness to talk to all groups, which were prepared to adjure the path of violence.

(b) No, Sir.

Proposal to set up National Intelligence Grid

1365. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to build a National Intelligence Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue thereby on an All India basis;

(c) whether recruitment of additional personnel with proficiency in intelligence work is also proposed to be made; and

(d) if so, the plan drawn out, if any, for the purpose during the current and the following two years indicating the funds proposed to be made available therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) In order to provide an